

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-14 remain in this application. New claims 15-18 further claim the invention in a manner not introducing new matter.

The indication that claims 1-14 would be allowed if amended to overcome all formal rejections is gratefully acknowledged.

The Official Action rejected claims 1-14 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, stating claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, and 13-14 contain language rendering the claims vague and indefinite.

In reply, claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, and 13-14 have been amended responsive to the Official Action's objections. In particular, claims 4 and 5, objected to for simultaneously reciting alternative features, have been amended to recite only a first of the alternate features, and the remaining recitation have been re-introduced as new claims 15 and 16, dependent from claims 4 and 5, respectively. Similarly, the exemplary language of claim 1 has been removed to new dependent claims 17 and 18.

In addition, claims 1-14 have been further amended to address antecedent basis issues and in consideration of U.S. practice and preferences. No new matter is introduced by way of any of these amendments; the amended and new claims are directed

only to the form of the claims, and in a manner not believed to either broaden or further limit them.

In light of the amendments set forth above, withdrawal of the rejections for indefiniteness is respectfully requested and allowance of the claims as presented is earnestly solicited.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that applicants have fully responded to the May 16, 2008 Official Action and that the claims as presented are patentable. In view of this, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims, as presented, and their early passage to issue.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this case, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the attorney for applicants at the number set forth below if the Examiner is of the opinion that further discussion of this case would be helpful.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573

REL/mjr